

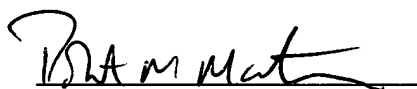
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**U.S. Application No. 08/898,853**

disclosure. The issue is merely one of characterizing one of the inner layers (i.e., the inner cover layer 15 in the present application) as being part of the cover or the core. In the present application, the third layer from the core is considered part of the cover in the original disclosure, but in U.S. Patent No. 5,743,816 to Ohsumi *et al.*, the third layer from the core is considered part of the core. Clearly, the positioning of the layers are identical in the two applications and it is only a matter of nomenclature whether you consider it part of the core or the cover when you consider the materials that this third layer is made of.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection under §112 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, as the Examiner has indicated in the July 18, 2001, communication, Applicants respectfully seek an interview to further discuss this specific issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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